

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A control apparatus capable of controlling a plurality of instruments, which have specified functions and move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

~~a command input means for inputting a command for controlling said plurality of instruments;~~

a control right acquisition ~~means~~ device for acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary instrument ~~among~~ out of said plurality of instruments; and

~~a storage means for storing information about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition means; and~~

a control restriction ~~means~~ device for restricting to ~~an input of the command input by said command input means for controlling another~~ control of an instrument, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information ~~stored by said storage means~~ about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition device.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said control right information includes information indicating at least three statuses: a status wherein no apparatus acquires said control right, another status wherein another apparatus acquires said control right and still another status wherein a self apparatus acquires said control right; and

said control restriction means device for restricting to an input of the control command input by said command input means controlling an instrument, on the basis of said control right information.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The control apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein:

said control restriction means device invalidates said a control command input by said command input means for controlling said plurality of instruments when another apparatus acquires said control right.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The control apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a display means device for displaying at least said control right information stored in said storage means.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A control system capable of controlling a plurality of instruments cameras, which have specified functions and are connected to a network and move relatedly with mutual movements, from remote locations, comprising:

a command input means for inputting a command for controlling said plurality of instruments;

a control right acquisition means device for acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary instrument among camera out of said plurality of instruments cameras; and

a storage means for storing information about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition means; and

a control restriction means device for restricting to control another instrument except for said instrument, control of camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance

with said control right information ~~stored by said storage means~~ about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition device.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The control system according to Claim 6, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~said plurality of instruments having said specified functions include a camera, further comprising:~~

~~an image signal pickup means for picking up an image signal produced from said camera; and~~

~~a display means device for displaying at least one of control right stored in said storage means and said image signal picked up by said image signal pickup means~~ said control right information.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of controlling a plurality of instruments which have specified functions and move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

~~a command input step of inputting a command in use for controlling said plurality of instruments;~~

~~a control right acquisition step of acquiring a control right of an arbitrary instrument among~~ out of ~~said plurality of instruments; and~~

~~a storage step of storing information about said control right acquired at said control right acquisition step as a flag; and~~

~~a control restriction step of restricting to an input of the command for remotely controlling another instrument;~~ control of an instrument, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information ~~indicated as said flag~~ about said control right acquired in said control right acquisition step.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The control method according to Claim 8, wherein:
~~said storage step includes a step of storing information which indicates~~ said control right information includes information indicating at least three statuses: a status wherein no apparatus acquires said control right, another status wherein ~~anyone of other~~ another apparatuses acquires said control right and still another status wherein a self apparatus acquires said control right ~~on said flag~~; and

said control restriction step includes a step of restricting to ~~an input of the control command, in accordance with control right information which is stored as said flag~~ controlling an instrument, on the basis of said control right information.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The control method according to Claim 9, wherein:
said control restriction step includes a step of invalidating ~~said a control command input by said command input step~~ for controlling said plurality of instruments when another apparatus acquires said control right.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method of controlling a plurality of ~~instruments~~ cameras, which are connected to a network ~~and have specified functions~~ and move relatedly with mutual movements, from a plurality of remote locations comprising:

~~a command input step of inputting a command for controlling said plurality of instruments;~~

a control right acquisition step of acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary ~~instrument~~ camera out of said plurality of ~~instruments~~ cameras; and

~~a storage step of storing information about said control right acquired at said control right acquisition step; and~~

a control restriction step of restricting to control ~~another instruments except for said instrument, control of a camera,~~ of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with said control right information about said control right acquired in said control right acquisition step.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The control method according to Claim 12, wherein further comprising:

~~said plurality of instruments having said specified functions include a camera, further comprising:~~

~~an image signal pickup step of picking up an image signal produced from said camera;~~

a display step of displaying at least one of control right information which is stored at said storage step and said image signal picked up at said image pickup step said control right information.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A camera control system which is formed of a server/client constitution and enabling to control a plurality of cameras through a network, comprising:

a first camera for being controlled in an image pickup direction;

a second camera for being controlled in an image pickup direction;

a control means for controlling the image pickup direction of said second camera which picks up an area within an image pickup range of said first camera; and

a control restriction means for restricting to control said first camera when an arbitrary client acquires a control right of said second camera.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The control system according to Claim 14, wherein:

said control restriction means restricts controlling of said first camera performed by another client does not acquire said control right.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A method of controlling a control system which is formed of a server/client constitution and enabling through a network to control capable of controlling an image pickup direction of a first camera and a second camera, comprising:

a control step of controlling the image pickup direction of said second camera, which picks up within an image pickup range of said camera; and

a control restriction step of restricting to control said first camera when an arbitrary client acquires a control right of said second camera.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The control method according to Claim 16, wherein:

said control restriction step includes a step of restricting controlling of said first camera performed by other clients except for said client which acquires said control right of said second camera.

Claim 18 (New): A control apparatus capable of controlling a plurality of cameras, which move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

a control right acquisition device for acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary camera out of said plurality of cameras; and

a control restriction device for restricting control of a camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition device.

Claim 19 (New): A method of controlling a plurality of cameras, which move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

a control right acquisition step of acquiring a control right of an arbitrary camera out of said plurality of cameras; and

a control restriction step for restricting control of a camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired in said control right acquisition step.

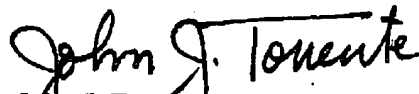
Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12 and 13 have been amended. Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled. New Claims 18 and 19 have been added.

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Respectfully submitted,


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